

# ZERO BEAT

Our 52nd year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

June, 1998

## Annual Meeting and Elections

Doors open at 7:00 - the meeting starts at 7:30 for the annual business meeting and elections.

The next meeting of the Hampden County Radio Association will be on **Friday evening, June 5th**, at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church.

There's lots going on, so don't be late for this month's meeting. We will be electing the Executive Board as well as 4 Board of Directors.

The elections will consist of:

1. Report of the Nominating Committee
2. Nominations from the floor
3. Election of officers and Board members

***ICOM NIGHT at the HCRA!***  
***Don't miss out - Be there!***

*We've got a representative from ICOM coming to our meeting this month, so if you want to see what's new, or just have some questions on equipment, don't be late!!!*

## HCRA FIELD DAY, JUNE 27-28, 1998

**Here's** a great chance to work on your operating skills, meet people, and have a great time! The HCRA is having its Field Day at K1ILZ's QTH at 130 Scantic Road, Hamden, Mass. He's got a big field for us, and all we need is YOU! Don't worry if your CW isn't up to snuff, or you haven't used your mike for 6 months, that's what Field Day is for. We've got Extra Class hams to use the Club Call, so no matter what license you have you can work **ALL** the Field Day bands!! More info at the meeting!

**See you on the 26th!!!!**

### Talk in and directions for Field Day:

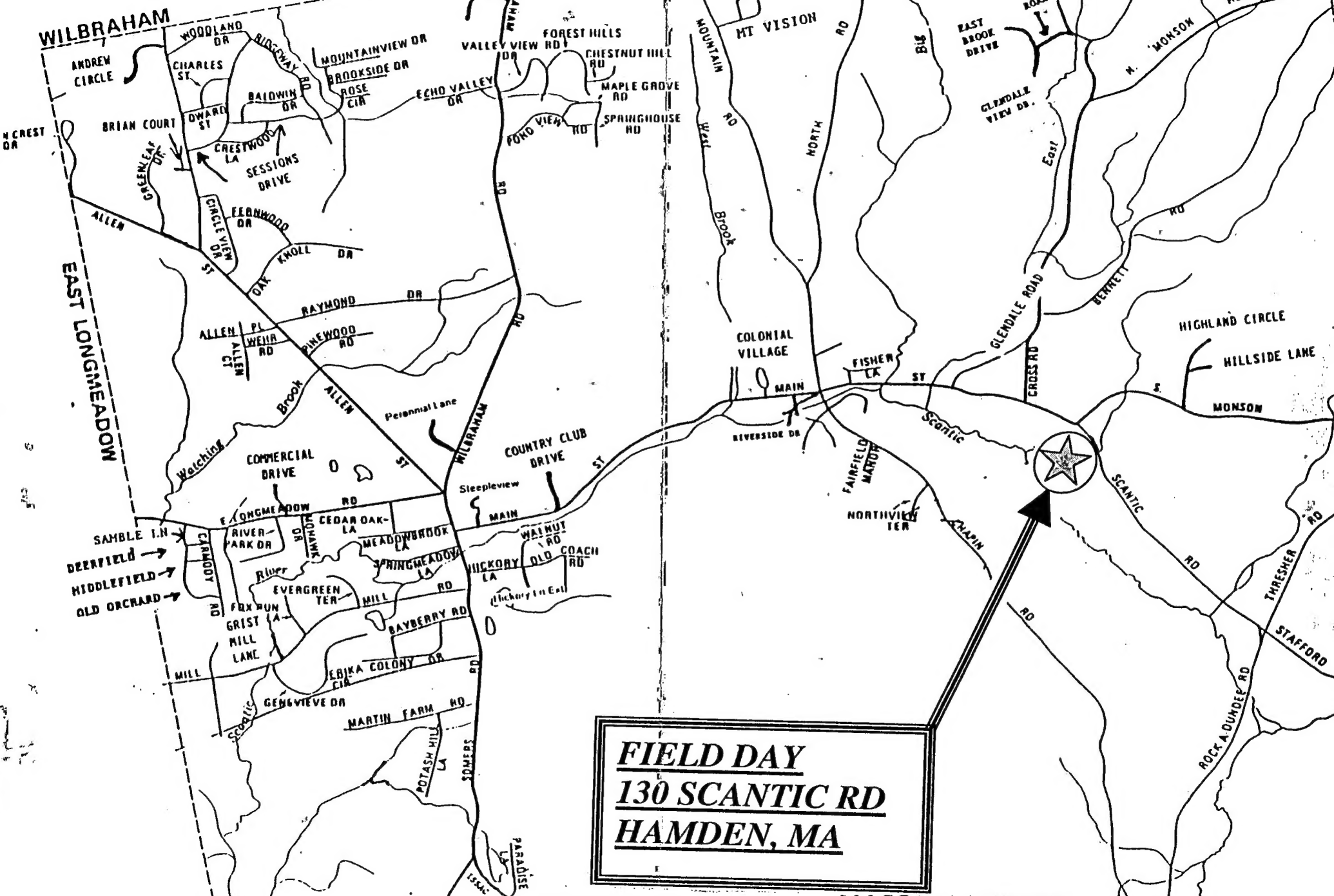
Don't worry if you're not sure how to get to Field Day,  
June 27 - 28....

Just look at the map on the  
next page, or listen to the Talk-in  
on

147.105 (up 600 kHz)....

**C'mon down, and bring a friend!!**

**WILBRAHAM**



**FIELD DAY**  
**130 SCANTIC RD**  
**HAMDEN, MA**

HAMPDEN CO. MASSACHUSETTS  
TOLLAND CO. CONNECTICUT

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY

Field day is fast approaching HCRA needs help with set up and take down at the field day site (see map). Field day is also a great time to sharpen your operating skills and get on the air, and enjoy taking part with fellow members. Come on out sign up at the June HCRA meeting. Make your membership count and exercise your vote! The June meeting is also the annual business meeting, nominating committee report, officer elections, adjustments to by-laws and general corporation business. Please plan to attend your presence is needed at this extremely important meeting. June 5 is also ICOM night at HCRA, an ICOM representative will be our guest for the evening. Plus a surprise guest - looks to be a very exciting night.

CU There,

IRV W6IS

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Meet Larry Smith K1ILZ**

Larry's interest in amateur radio started in early 1957 when he was 31 years old. Larry does not remember what specific event might have sparked his interest. His background has been one of varied mechanical interests, including dabbling in antique radios. Somehow he got hold of an Amateur Radio Handbook and started studying for his Ham Ticket. He built an oscillator and with an old military key he started to learn the code. Although Pat, his XYL had no interest in Ham Radio at that time, she helped him with his code practice and in doing so she also became proficient with the code. Soon Larry had his ticket with the call K1ILZ. Larry's first rig was a very used Globe Trotter. After many repairs, winding of coils and purchasing some 80 meter crystals he hit the Novice bands. After upgrading to a General ticket, Larry went all out and purchased a used Johnson Viking 2. Between the 1958 and 1965 Larry achieved WAS and WAC on 10 meter AM and also enjoyed some rag chewing with some of the local hams.

Raising a family took top priority for Larry from 1965 to 1979 and in that time he neglected to renew his ticket. Don, W1UPH rekindled the spark for Larry when Don's Wilson handheld made contact with a mobile station in Greenfield from Larry's dinning room. Larry had to start all over again at that time working up to a general ticket.

Since renewing Larry has been involved in numerous Ham activities including fox hunting, antenna experimenting, field day, and is active on the 160 meter band where he needs only 5 more state for CW WAS. Larry's most memorable contact is with VK7BC Tasmania breaking the pile up using his old Viking 2, 120 watts on CW. In 1995 Larry upgraded to Extra Class and also became a VE. Larry is a past president of the QVARC and is a member of QCWA and MTARA as well as a member and Director of HCRA. The HCRA is very honored to have Larry as one of its members.

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# **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

**BY K1II, HCRA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

As the summer season fast approaches, the thoughts of outdoor activities become reality. The awareness of threatening weather and the need to receive and report severe weather is important. Through National Weather, Taunton and Glen Fields, and the coordination effort by Eric Tuller N1QKO, many of our local amateurs attended the SKYWARN training sessions recently held in Greenfield and Palmer. This leads to the importance of fundamental operating practice during formal SKYWARN nets.

There are parameters for reporting severe weather and unless meeting minimum conditions, we should refrain from causing unnecessary chatter. Listen to Net Control for what the reporting criteria is and after checking in, if a need for a local report of your area, they will call. Local Emergency Managers and other Public Safety officials use the amateur radio net reports to make important decisions regarding safety of life and property. There are many non-amateurs that also tune in to the activated weather nets on the local repeaters.

Field Day is the weekend of June 27 - 28 and everyone is encouraged to participate, even if operating from a home station for an hour or so, with the thought of emergency communications operations, for if and when an emergency or disaster does happen. Being capable of maintaining reliable communications under the most adverse conditions is a real challenge when antennas are collapsed and electrical transmission power feed lines are like spider webs laying on the non-passable roads.

On Tuesday, May 19, the Galaxy 4 commercial satellite went berserk and upset the pager world, which indicates how much we rely on communications. If basic communications were lost due to natural disaster, terrorism, or even overload due to unusual events, technical failure, or high Sun Spot activity, how prepared are we to provide minimal emergency back-up for our community? When was the last time you originated or received a simple Happy Birthday greeting message? It could just as well be a request for medical supplies.

The Town of Southwick recently dedicated a new Town Hall and Emergency Operations Center after two years in construction. The EOC is equipped with a Rohn 55G tower supporting R.A.C.E.S. antennas for six, two meters and 440 MHz. Local amateurs under Southwick Emergency Management Agency R.A.C.E.S. are N1MOC, Keith Stromgren, N1YFH Tyler Moore, N1WHA Bernie Keefe, N1EVE Pauline Dunlap, and K1II Charlie Dunlap. The EOC is fortunate to have the permanent call KB1CDL to use for monthly drills, Field Day, and if needed, disaster communications.

On April 21-23, in conjunction with FEMA, and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the six New England States conducted a simulated Hurricane Disaster Exercise. Locally under the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Area III Radio Officers: Steve N1SR and Mike N1PSE, fifteen Western Massachusetts communities participated using R.A.C.E.S. operations to communicate from the local EOC to State Area III Headquarters in Belchertown and then to State Headquarters in Framingham (the Bunker). It is good news to see the amateur operators recognized and used.

A reminder to check into the ARES Nets on Sunday mornings on 3937 kHz at 0830 hrs, and 146.94 at 0845 hrs. and 146.91 at 0900 hrs. With fresh alkalines in one hand, a mag mount in the other, have a safe and enjoyable summer as you look skyward for that rotating wall cloud!

73,

**Charles Dunlap, K1II**

**HCRA Emergency Communications**

**AEC Hampden County West and OES**

**Southwick RACES Dir.**

# **SEVERE WEATHER**

Hello to all! A couple of more SKYWARN classes will be held this month in southern New England:

5-12-98	7pm-10pm	Chariho Middle School	Wood River R.I.
5-14-98	7pm-10pm	Uxbridge High School	Uxbridge Ma.
5-18-98	7pm-10pm	Windsor Jr. High	Windsor, Ct.
5-19-98	7pm-10pm	Littleton public library	Littleton Ma.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED for Littleton class!**

**Here is the criteria that we will be looking for this summer when a SKYWARN is activated:**

## **A GUIDE FOR REPORTING SEVERE WEATHER**

1. Tornadoes / funnel clouds (be wary of look alikes)
2. Wall clouds, especially if they are rotating
3. Any hail (be specific to size) **DO NOT USE "MARBLE SIZE" TO DESCRIBE SIZE**
4. Winds ( 40 mph or greater, estimated or recorded)
5. Damaging gusts (50 mph or greater)
6. Trees / power lines down. Large limbs down
7. Structural damage to buildings, windows broken.
8. Rainfall :
  - a. 1 inch or greater in 1 hour
  - b. 2 inches or greater storm total
9. Flash flooding:
  - a. Streams / rivers -also when nearing bankfull
  - b. Coastal/ street

## **PROCEDURES for calling into local net:**

1. Identify yourself with your call and name
2. Be BRIEF in your observation. Include:
  - a. WHAT was observed
  - b. WHEN it was observed
  - c. WHERE it was observed

**Include direction & distance from a known location**

## **Some things to remember during a net :**

When calling from your town. Please specify if in Ma. or Ct.  
Don't relay reports that you here on repeaters in other coverage areas  
Don't relay information from the WEATHER CHANNEL  
Don't relay information you here on a scanner

## **WE WANT YOUR OBSERVATIONS!**

After the storm has passed your location, **DO NOT** tell net control the storm has passed. Please stay off the air so that reports east of you can be taken. We don't need a summary of what has already happened. Please remember your safety during severe weather!

Thank you,

Eric Tuller, N1QKO

ASST. SKYWARN COORDINATOR for W. MA.



**The next meeting of the  
Hampden County Radio Association  
will be on Friday, June 5, 1998  
at 7:30 p.m. at the Feeding Hills Congrega-  
tional Church. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.**

**This month's meeting:**

## **Annual Elections and ICOM Night!**

### **SEE YOU THERE!**

In case of inclement weather, listen to Channel 40 or 22, and the 146.940 and 147.105 repeaters.  
Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00 p.m.

Barry Mason, N1IJK, Editor  
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Springfield, MA. 01108

